

EIGHTY-FIRST
ANNUAL REPORT

MECHANICS'
INSTITUTE

SAN FRANCISCO
CALIFORNIA

NINETEEN HUNDRED
THIRTY-SIX



Eighty-first Annual Report

of the

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE

for the

Year Ending February 29, 1936

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE OFFICERS

Board of Trustees

Year Ending February 29, 1936

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Mechanics'-Mercantile Library

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Chief, Circulation Department.....	HELEN D. BRYANT

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Evening Assistants

VICTOR ROMAIN	CECILIA DONOGHUE
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MECHANICS' INSTITUTE

Mechanics'-Mercantile Library

Mechanics' Institute Chess and Checker Club

57 Post Street

San Francisco, California

The Library now contains nearly one hundred and thirty-one thousand volumes.

Special attention is given to the division of technology.

Over five hundred periodicals and newspapers are on file.

A chess and checker room is maintained, where smoking is permitted.

Lecture courses are held each season.

Library open daily, 9 a. m. to 10 p. m.

Sunday, 1 p. m. to 5 p. m.

Chess room, daily, 9 a. m. to 10 p. m.

TERMS OF MEMBERSHIP

Entrance Fee	\$ 1.00
Half-yearly Dues (in advance).....	3.00
Life Membership	100.00

Non-residents may use the Library for one month on payment of fifty cents.

A member may introduce a friend (not a resident of the city), who will be allowed the use of the Library rooms for one month.

LIBRARY RULES

Members are entitled to take out four books at a time, provided however, that only two books of new fiction or current magazines marked "One week only," whether regular books or extra books, may be out at the same time on one membership. Extra books may be taken out on payment of five cents each.

All new fiction and new magazines may be kept out one week only, and are not renewable. All other circulating books, except where marked "One Week" or "Seven Days," may be kept out two weeks and may be renewed for two weeks longer unless marked "Not Renewable." Renewal notice may be given by mail or telephone (Garfield 1750).

An overdue charge of five cents a day will be made on all one week books, current magazines and books marked "not renewable." On other books a charge of two cents a day will be made.

Reservation postals may be left for all circulating books.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

San Francisco, March 5, 1936.

To the Members of the Mechanics' Institute:

It is my privilege and my pleasure to present to you the President's report for the eighty-first year of the Mechanics' Institute.

It is with deep regret that I report to you the passing away last September of James H. Lyons, one of our Trustees and our Treasurer. Mr. Lyons was a Trustee for over thirty-three years' continuous service, the longest service in the history of the Institute. He was a most valuable member of the Board and as the Institute's Treasurer he gave most important service in his careful and conscientious attention to the duties of his office.

Your Board of Trustees adopted resolutions of respect to his memory as follows:

"JAMES HENRY LYONS, Treasurer of the Mechanics' Institute, was born in San Francisco, September 24, 1861, on historic Telegraph Hill, of pioneer parents, who came to California in the early Fifties.

"He became a member of the Mechanics' Institute on August 20, 1891; was elected a member of the Board of Trustees on February 25, 1902, and through successive re-elections served on the Board until his death on September 6, 1935, a period of thirty-three and a half years, the longest service ever rendered by a Trustee of the Mechanics' Institute. He was an ideal representative of our Institute, which demonstrated its complete confidence in him by his sixteen successive re-elections.

"From March 8, 1902, to March 7, 1918, he served as Corresponding Secretary; from March 7, 1918, to January 3, 1928, as Recording Secretary; and from January 3, 1928, to September 6, 1935, as Treasurer.

"In his civil life he became connected with the Bank of California in San Francisco, shortly after the stirring Comstock days, and he continued with that institution from January 2, 1882, to the date of his death. He is survived by his wife, Minnie Monahan Lyons, whom he married on January 20, 1907.

"In close contact with the world of finance practically all his adult life, our beloved Jim Lyons was an accurate and an efficient Secretary, and a painstaking and a careful Treasurer. His calm and amiable disposition, his tolerant nature, and his honesty and integrity made him an excellent balance wheel in the somewhat trying requirements of those offices, while his wide experience in finance resulted in benefit and profit to our Institute.

"His merry laugh, his kindly look, and his pleasant smile endeared him to all of the many Trustees with whom he came into close contact during his faithful service of more than a third of a century. He saw only the better and the nobler side of his fellow men and women; and this, in turn, inspired his fellow men and women to become better and nobler.

"We shall not again, in our meeting room, hear his cheerful greetings. Although his chair is vacant, and although we miss him keenly, the happy memory of his many admirable qualities keeps his picture ever bright before us. In his death each member of the Board of Trustees has lost a firm and a loyal friend, and the Mechanics' Institute has lost a far-sighted and a conscientious Treasurer.

"Be it Resolved, therefore, that the foregoing be spread upon the minutes of the proceedings of this Board, and that an engrossed copy thereof be presented to the family of our late Treasurer."

At a special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Mechanics' Institute, held on the nineteenth day of September, 1935, the foregoing was adopted by unanimous vote.

Mr. Lyons' place on the Board was filled by the election by the Trustees of Mr. William Gladstone Merchant, one of the city's leading architects and a member of the Architectural Commission that is planning the 1939 Exposition, and his election was confirmed at the members' meeting held December 5, 1935. Your Board elected Trustee William N. Rolph to fill the vacancy in the office of Treasurer.

The Secretary's report, which you have already heard, shows an increase in the rental receipts of the Post Street building of about \$3000.00 over that of the previous year. One of the stores recently became vacant, and while we have had a number of inquiries we cannot report a tenant as yet. The expense of operating the building is about \$500.00 more than last year.

The total library receipts for dues, fines, extra books, etc., is about \$600.00 more this year. The operating expense shows an increase of about \$300.00. The amount for salaries is increased about \$1350.00 due to promotions and the increase of salaries on account of length of service. The amount spent for books, binding and periodicals shows about \$2500.00 less than last year, but there should be added bills of approximately \$1100.00 for foreign books and periodicals already received but for which invoices have not been rendered.

The excess of receipts from the library, building, interest, etc., over gross expenditures for the year is \$14,571.87, which is about \$3300.00 more than the surplus of last year.

Of our investments of over \$640,000.00 in bonds I am happy to report that none of them is nor ever has been in default and our investment in mortgages of over \$122,000.00 is in satisfactory condition.

Our membership the previous year showed an increase of fourteen—this past year shows an increase of eighty-seven. For some reason our circulation of books dropped off about 8000 from the previous year. Our Librarian informs me the reports of similar institutions show decreases also.

The Lecture Committee provided the usual course of lectures, and judging from the large audiences I am convinced that it met with the approval of those who attended.

As I have heretofore stated, the Institute is the property of its members and the Board of Trustees is concerned in providing, as far as possible, for the membership as it may desire. The Trustees are, therefore, eager to receive constructive criticism in order that they may make the Institute's facilities fully serviceable to the membership.

Again, as in previous reports, I stress the fact that it is necessary for us to put away a surplus each year in order that we may perpetuate our Institution. As the years go on and the library increases in size the necessity for more space and for more attendants to take care of the increased size must be provided for. The only way that this can be successfully handled without encroaching upon our capital is to lay aside each year a substantial amount from our receipts so that our income will continue to take care of the increased cost of operation.

In closing I wish to commend the able and effective work

of our Secretary, Mr. John H. Wood; our Librarian, Mrs. Mary O. Carmody; the entire library staff and the building employees. And finally I feel deeply grateful for the courteous and effective co-operation I have invariably received from your Board of Trustees.

JOSEPH M. CUMMING, President.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

For the Year Ending February 29, 1936

San Francisco, March 5, 1936.

To the Board of Trustees of the Mechanics' Institute,
San Francisco.

Gentlemen:—

I have the honor to present herewith financial statement of the Mechanics' Institute for the year ending February 29, 1936:

March 1, 1935, Cash on deposit in various banks.....	\$ 35,966.11
Cash in contingent funds.....	450.00
Total Cash	\$ 36,416.11

RECEIPTS

Mechanics' Institute Building—rent collections from March 1, 1935, to February 29, 1936..	\$ 44,192.34
Interest, Ernest N. Atkins Memorial Fund..	30.00
Interest, James Lick Fund.....	600.00
Interest, Savings Account	513.78
Interest, Mortgages Receivable Accounts.....	6,645.00
Interest, Bonds	31,105.69
Third Street Property, Income Account.....	46.60
Library and General Administration:	
Dues	\$ 18,783.07
Entrance Fees	673.00
Books Paid For.....	169.08
Fines and Extra Books.....	1,977.23
Life Membership	100.00
Sundry	6.00
	21,708.38
Total Receipts	\$104,841.79

Received from Investments Accounts:

Bonds Matured	\$ 17,700.00
Payments on Mortgages receivable %	1,400.00
	19,100.00

Total Cash Received.....	123,941.79
	\$160,357.90

EXPENDITURES

Mechanics' Institute Building—operating expenses from March 1, 1935, to February 29, 1936:

Pay Roll	\$ 14,479.20
Taxes	8,220.87
Insurance	734.94
Heat	790.80
Light and Power.....	2,463.22
Water	411.70
Window Cleaning	330.00
Supplies	372.46
Repairs	260.93
General Expense	478.66
Alterations	113.59

\$ 28,656.37

Library and General Administration:

Books, Binding and Periodicals..	\$ 9,556.54
Furniture and Equipment.....	46.08
General Expense	2,367.14
Insurance	2,091.40
Legal Expense	260.00
Lectures	1,042.08
Printing and Stationery.....	392.82
Salaries	26,526.52
Supplies	358.30
Taxes	49.71
Monthly Bulletin	196.01
Rent of Library Rooms.....	18,720.00
Sundry	6.95
	61,613.55

Total Operating Expense.. \$ 90,269.92

Post Street Building, Cost Account.\$ 307.01

Investments Account:

Bonds purchased (Par Value)..	12,000.00
Bond Premium Account.....	2,388.98
Total	14,695.99

Total Cash paid out.....\$104,965.91

Cash on hand in various banks, Feb. 29, 1936..	\$ 54,941.99
Cash on hand in contingent funds.....	450.00

Total Cash on hand..... 55,391.99

\$160,357.90

SUMMARY

Cash on hand, March 1, 1935.....	\$ 36,416.11
Total Receipts	\$104,841.79
Total Expense	90,269.92
Excess Receipts	14,571.87
Received from Investments Accounts.....	19,100.00
	<hr/>
	\$ 70,087.98

DISTRIBUTION

Cash on hand and in various banks, Feb. 29, 1936..	\$ 54,941.99
Cash in contingent funds.....	450.00
Total Cash	\$ 55,391.99
Investments made from surplus.....	14,695.99
	<hr/>
	\$ 70,087.98

The net amount expended since April 18, 1906, on Books and Periodicals, and Binding of new Books has been. \$348,214.88
 The amount paid out for construction, equipment, etc., of the Post Street Building has been..... 389,725.43

Insurance is carried as follows:

Contents	\$115,000.00
Post Street Building.....	286,500.00

The Resources of the Mechanics' Institute are as follows:

Post St. lot covered by Mechanics' Institute Building.	
First Mortgages for \$122,300.00 on San Francisco Real Estate.	
Bonds to the par value of \$640,751.40, as follows:	
\$178,000.00 San Francisco, Cal., City Hall 5%.	
10,700.00 San Francisco, Cal., Municipal Railway 5%.	
22,000.00 San Francisco, Cal., Water 4½%.	
29,000.00 San Francisco, Cal., Golden Gate Park 3½%.	
6,000.00 San Francisco, Cal., Hetch Hetchy Water 5%.	
21,000.00 San Francisco, Cal., Hetch Hetchy Water 4½%.	
10,000.00 San Francisco, Cal., Hetch Hetchy Water 5¾%.	
1,000.00 San Francisco, Cal., Playground 3½%.	
8,000.00 San Francisco, Cal., School 4½%.	
5,000.00 San Francisco, Cal., Spring Valley 4½%.	
1,357.50 Berkeley, Cal., Municipal Improvement 4½%.	
5,000.00 Berkeley, Cal., School District 5%.	
1,875.00 Chico, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5%.	
3,000.00 Cloverdale, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5%.	
60,000.00 East Bay Municipal Utilities 5%.	

2,000.00 Exeter, Cal., Union High School District 5%.	
2,000.00 Gilroy, Cal. School District 5%.	
2,000.00 Grass Valley, Cal., High School District 6%.	
2,000.00 Hanford, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5%.	
10,000.00 Marin, Cal., Municipal Water District 5%.	
1,000.00 Merced, Cal., Union High School 6%.	
4,393.90 Monterey, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5%.	
700.00 Nevada City, Cal., Sewer 6%.	
7,000.00 Oakland, Cal., School District 5%.	
2,000.00 Oakland, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5½%.	
5,000.00 Petaluma, Cal., City High School 6%.	
3,000.00 Pittsburg, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5%.	
1,000.00 Placerville, Cal., Municipal Street Work 5%.	
3,000.00 Placerville, Cal., School District 5%.	
1,000.00 Richmond, Cal., School District 4½%.	
5,000.00 Richmond, Cal., School District 5½%.	
5,000.00 Sacramento, Cal., School District 4½%.	
8,000.00 Sacramento, Cal., High School District 4½%.	
4,000.00 Salinas, Cal., Union High School District 5%.	
1,000.00 San Mateo, Cal., Union High School 6%.	
1,125.00 Santa Barbara, Cal., School District 4½%.	
1,000.00 Santa Maria, Cal., Union High School District 6%.	
10,000.00 Santa Rosa, Cal., Union High School District 5%.	
1,000.00 Sequoia, (San Mateo Co., Cal.), Union High School District 6%.	
10,000.00 Stockton, Cal., School District 5%.	
2,600.00 Visalia, Cal., Municipal Improvement 6%.	
5,000.00 Washington, (Alameda Co., Cal.), Union High School District 5%.	
1,000.00 Williams, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5½%.	
7,000.00 Butte County, Cal., Highway 5%.	
1,000.00 Contra Costa County, Cal., 5%.	
15,000.00 Fresno County, Cal., 5%.	
5,000.00 Merced County, Cal., 5%.	
2,000.00 San Mateo County, Cal., Highway 5%.	
4,000.00 Sonoma County, Cal., Highway 5%.	
3,000.00 California State Highway 4½%.	
54,000.00 California State Highway 4¾%.	
20,000.00 California State Highway 5%.	
5,000.00 California State Highway 5¾%.	
32,000.00 California State Harbor 4%.	
19,000.00 California State University Building 4½%.	
11,000.00 California State Veterans' Welfare 4½%.	
Cash on hand, March 1, 1936, \$55,391.99.	
Books, Furniture and Equipment of the Library.	

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN H. WOOD, Secretary.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARY

San Francisco, March 5, 1936.

To the President and Board of Trustees, Mechanics' Institute.

Gentlemen: I herewith submit the Eighty-first Annual Report of the Library for the year ending February 29, 1936.

Membership

March 1, 1935.....		3,910
Added—Subscribing	671	
Life	1	
Reinstated	8	680
		4,590
Withdrawn—Life (deceased)	20	
Subscribing	573	593

Membership February 29, 1936..... 3,997

During the year eleven subscribing members who had paid continuously for thirty years were, according to the Constitution, made life members.

The membership is divided as follows:

Honorary	2
Life	588
Subscribing	3,407
	<hr/> 3,997

Book Accessions

Number of volumes listed March 1, 1935.....	127,815
Added by purchase	2,685
Added by binding	488
Added by gift	261
	<hr/> 3,434
	131,249
Less lost, paid for, and discarded.....	894
	<hr/>
Number of volumes listed February 29, 1936.....	130,355

Binding

673 volumes were rebound at the bindery and 4,750 volumes were repaired in the Library.

Gifts

4,972 unbound items, consisting of pamphlets, serials, and newspapers, were presented to the Library.

Accessions by Classes

	Purchased	Cost	Bound	Cost	Gifts	Total
General Works	38	\$ 228.51	74	\$ 163.65	14	126
Philosophy	82	140.88	9	18.00	10	101
Religion	21	44.09	1	2.00	3	25
Sociology	260	563.12	40	103.30	85	385
Philology	5	6.85	..	.....	5	10
Science	101	325.92	80	170.60	13	194
Useful Arts	208	716.55	204	480.65	74	486
Fine Arts	150	373.27	55	138.20	5	210
Literature	170	294.73	6	12.00	15	191
Foreign Literature	8	6.70	..	.....	7	15
Travel	211	492.88	10	20.20	7	228
Biography	309	797.65	2	4.00	9	320
History	94	254.16	7	14.20	1	102
Fiction and Children's						
Books	1,028	1,681.54	..	.....	13	1,041
	<hr/> 2,685	<hr/> \$5,926.85	<hr/> 488	<hr/> \$1,126.80	<hr/> 261	<hr/> 3,434

There were issued for home use 212,344 volumes, an average monthly circulation of 17,695 volumes.

Table of Circulation Statistics

General Works	775	Literature	10,889
Philosophy	4,286	Foreign Literature	916
Religion	1,174	Travel	12,418
Sociology	9,133	Biography	12,927
Philology	180	History	6,386
Science	5,133	Fiction	122,611
Useful Arts	9,114	Periodicals	8,865
Fine Arts	7,537		
			<hr/> 212,344

Fiction.....121,993 volumes, 57.45 per cent
Non-fiction..... 90,351 volumes, 42.55 per cent

Adult books.....211,726 volumes, 99.71 per cent
Children's books..... 618 volumes, 0.29 per cent

Respectfully submitted,

MARY O. CARMODY, Librarian.

